Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Additional Central Assistance is provided to States /UTs to further the goal of primary health care, through strengthening and improving the functional status of the primary health care institutions.

To enable easy access of our less advantaged citizens to good health services, and to offer health protection of some choice, a community based universal health insurance scheme has been designed in which the Government would contribute Rs. 100 per year towards the annual premium, so as to ensure the affordability of the scheme to families living below the poverty line.

The National Health Policy 2002 envisages increasing public health investment to 2% of GDP by the year 2010 from the existing level of 0.9%. Therein, it is also proposed that State Governments would increase their expenditure on health sector to 7% of their total budget by 2005 and to 8% of the budget by 2010. The Central Government's contribution would rise from the existing level of 15% to 25% of the total public health spending by 2010. The Government is making all out efforts to increase expenditure on health as per policy, subject to the overall financial constraints.

Availability of doctors

787. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of M.B.B.S. graduates required for the present population;

(b) the number of medical graduates available; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per Medical Council of India, total number of allopathic doctors registered till date is 6,13,099. In addition, there were 6,88,802 registered practitioners of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy as on 1.1.2001. Thus, taking into account the number of registered doctors in all system of medicine *i.e.* Allopathy and Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, the overall availability can be stated to be sufficient for the present.